



# YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

ANNOUNCEMENT

U.S. EMBASSY

## 2011 YOUTH LEADERSHIP PROGRAM WITH SOUTHEAST ASIA FOR EDUCATORS

Host Institution –  
North Illinois University

October 25 – November 19, 2011



**Deadline for Applications: September 9, 2011**

### **1. Program Description**

Malaysian educators (teachers/community leaders) are invited to apply for participation in the Youth Leadership Program with Southeast Asia. One adult educator and five student leaders from Malaysia will join similar groups from other countries in Southeast Asia. The host organization in the United States is Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Illinois.

This program is designed to promote high-quality leadership, civic responsibility, and community engagement among our countries' future leaders. The exchanges will offer a practical examination of the principles of democracy and civil society as practiced in the United States and provide participants with training that allows them to develop their leadership skills.

In addition to the themes of civic education, community service, and leadership, the program may also explore the theme of environmental care and protection.

Participants will visit several communities in the United States, including DeKalb and Chicago, Illinois, and Washington, DC. The program will focus on interactive activities, opportunities to talk with youth and adult community leaders, interactions with government and community organizations, community service, conflict resolution, peer interaction and building leadership skills. The program will include some school-based activities so that participants can meet their American peers, experience a U.S. school environment, and participate in some classes. Cultural and recreational activities will balance the schedule. Participants will also experience American family life while participating in a home stay.

The adult participants will have many program elements in common with those provided for the students, and will also have some activities designed just for them to help them foster youth leadership and civic education programs at home.

An important part of the program is the development and implementation of the projects to implement on their return home. These projects will respond to a need in the school or community. Examples include supporting student government or other means of student involvement in the decision making process in schools, producing visual materials that share information on social issues, developing peer-support or peer-mediation programs or workshops, cooperating with local NGOs trying to develop a spirit of volunteerism, or supporting activities that help increase media coverage of youth issues. All participants will be expected to complete these follow-on projects.

## **2. Institute Objectives**

This is an intensive program with three segments: (1) A pre-departure orientation; (2) a 25-day exchange program that will offer teachers or community/ leaders the opportunity to explore the principles of leadership and community engagement in the United States; and (3) follow-on activities, where participants will conduct projects in their home communities. The program will be intensive, academic, and highly interactive. The program sponsors seek energetic applicants who are ready to develop their skills in order to be effective leaders in their schools and communities.

The program will employ a highly interactive approach both in workshops and in a range of public and community settings. Through engagement with the activities of U.S. high schools, community organizations, youth groups, and community leaders in each location, the adult participants will better understand civic participation and the rights and responsibilities of citizens in a democracy.

## **3. Funding**

The United States Government, in conjunction with its partner Northern Illinois University, will pay for domestic transportation, international transportation to and from the United States, orientations, program fees and administration, site visits and seminars, lodging and most meals, some cultural activities, educational materials, accident and sickness coverage, and a modest amount of pocket money. Participants will stay with volunteer host families.

Participants are responsible for expenses related to the application process (copying, mailing, photographs, etc.) and spending money for souvenirs, telephone calls, and other personal items in the United States.

#### **4. Program requirements and restrictions**

Participants will travel to the United States on J-1 exchange visitor visas provided through this program. By accepting this visa, participants will be subject to a two-year home residency requirement, meaning they must return to and live in their home country for a total of two years before they would be eligible for an immigrant or temporary worker U.S. visa. This does not restrict other types of visas. For example, this would not prevent you from being able to apply for a student visa to attend university.

#### **5. Candidate qualifications**

Adult applicants must.....

- be a Malaysian citizen
- be at least 30 years old and not more than 45 years old by the start of the exchange
- be active in working with youth in either a school or community setting
- exhibit a high level of open-mindedness, flexibility, and interpersonal skills
- be willing and able to meet periodically with selected students (SEAYLP participants) after the program to support their follow-up work
- be committed to the goals and ideals of the program, including civic leadership, diversity, and fostering positive regional and global interactions
- have good English skills

#### **6. To apply for the institute**

Applicants should submit an application for this program by fax or e-mail. The application deadline is **September 9, 2011**. The electronic application form may be viewed and downloaded from <http://malaysia.usembassy.gov/ylp.html>

To submit an application or to request more program details, all interested candidates are welcome to contact Helena Bridget, Public Affairs, American Embassy, 376 Jalan Tun Razak, 50400 Kuala Lumpur. Tel: (03) 2168-5106; fax: (03) 2148-9192 e-mail: [publicaffairskl@gmail.com](mailto:publicaffairskl@gmail.com)

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